

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing one or more pieces of residual mail using a mail processing system, each of said one or more pieces of mail having original transaction information that is stored by the mail processing system when said one or more pieces of mail are originally processed by the mail processing system using a first class of service, the method comprising:

accessing a first rate table corresponding to thea first class of service used to originally process said one or more pieces of residual mail;

accessing a second rate table corresponding to a second class of service to which a postage value originally applied to each of said one or more pieces of residual mail is to be corrected;

generating a postage correction table from said first rate table and said second rate table;

determining a postage correction amount for each of said one or more pieces of residual mail based on said postage correction table; ~~and~~

applying said determined postage correction amount to each of said one or more pieces of residual mail;

deleting the stored original transaction information for each of said one or more pieces of residual mail;

generating new transaction information for each of said one or more pieces of residual mail based on the second class of service; and

storing the new transaction information for each of said one or more pieces of residual mail.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising determining a weight of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail, wherein said postage correction amount is based on said weight of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising determining one or more dimensions of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail, wherein said postage correction amount is further based on said one or more dimensions of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 2, said postage correction table comprising a plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, said generating step further comprising calculating, for each of said weight breaks, a difference between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table, said difference being said postage correction rate for said weight break.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 3, said postage correction table comprising a plurality of weight breaks and plurality of corresponding postage correction rates and dimension based charges.
7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, said generating step further comprising calculating, for each of said weight breaks, a first difference between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table and a second difference between a first corresponding dimension based charge from said second rate table and a second corresponding dimension based charge from said first rate table, said first difference being said postage correction rate for said weight break and said second difference being said dimension based charge for said weight break.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 5, said calculating step for each of said weight breaks further comprising setting said postage correction rate equal to zero if said difference is negative.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, said calculating step for each of said weight breaks further comprising setting said postage correction rate equal to zero if said first difference is negative and setting said dimension based charge equal to zero if said second difference is negative.

10. (Currently Amended) A mail processing system, comprising:

a metering/printing module for applying postage values to one or more pieces of mail;

a central processing unit controlling operation of said metering/printing module; and

a memory storing information including original transaction information for said one or more pieces of mail that are originally processed by the mail processing system using a first class of service, and software executable by said central processing unit, said software including instructions for:

accessing a first rate table corresponding to the first class of service used to originally process one or more pieces of residual mail;

accessing a second rate table corresponding to a second class of service to which a postage value originally applied to each of said one or more pieces of residual mail is to be corrected;

generating a postage correction table from said first rate table and said second rate table;

determining a postage correction amount for each of said one or more pieces of residual mail based on said postage correction table; ~~and~~

causing said metering/printing module to apply said determined postage correction amount to one of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail or a tape to be applied to said one or more pieces of residual mail;

deleting the original transaction information for each of said one or more pieces of residual mail;

generating new transaction information for each of said one or more pieces of residual mail based on the second class of service; and

storing the new transaction information for each of said one or more pieces of residual mail.

11. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 10, further comprising a weighing module for weighing one or more mail pieces, said weighing module being controlled by said central processing unit, said software further including instructions for determining a weight for said one or more pieces of residual mail using said weighing module, wherein said postage correction amount is based on said weight of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail.

12. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 11, said postage correction table comprising a plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates.

13. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 12, said generating instructions further comprising instructions for calculating, for each of said weight breaks, a difference between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table, said difference being said postage correction rate for said weight break.

14. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 11, further comprising a dimensioning module for determining one or more dimensions of a mail piece, said dimensioning module being controlled by said central processing unit, said software further including instructions for determining one or more dimensions for said one or more pieces of residual mail using said dimensioning module, wherein said postage correction amount is further based on said one or more dimensions of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail.

15. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 14, said dimensioning module comprising an array of sensors.

16. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 15, said sensors being optical sensors.

17. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 14, said postage correction table comprising a plurality of weight breaks and plurality of corresponding postage correction rates and dimension based charges.

18. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 17, said generating instructions further comprising instructions for calculating, for each of said weight breaks, a first difference between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table and a second difference between a first corresponding dimension based charge from said second rate table and a second corresponding dimension based charge from said first rate table, said first difference being said postage correction rate for said weight break and said second difference being said dimension based charge for said weight break.

19. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 13, said calculating step for each of said weight breaks further comprising setting said postage correction rate equal to zero if said difference is negative.

20. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 18, said calculating step for each of said weight breaks further comprising setting said postage correction rate equal to zero if said first difference is negative and setting said dimension based charge equal to zero if said second difference is negative.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein accessing a first rate table further comprises:

receiving a first class of service used to originally process said one or more pieces of residual mail; and

accessing a first rate table corresponding to the received first class of service.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein accessing a second rate table further comprises:

receiving a second class of service to which a postage value originally applied to each of said one or more pieces of residual mail is to be corrected; and

accessing a second rate table corresponding to the received second class of service.

23. (Previously Presented) A mail processing system according to claim 10, wherein said first rate table and said second rate table are stored in said memory.